

Attorney's Docket No. 2718.3070.001

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL,
DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CIP)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

TYPE OF DECLARATION

This declaration is of the following type: (check one applicable item below)

original
 design
 supplemental

NOTE: If the declaration is for an international Application being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application do not check next item; check appropriate one of last three items.

national stage of PCT

NOTE: If one of the follow 3 items apply then complete and also attach ADDED PAGES FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CIP.

divisional
 continuation
 continuation-in-part (CIP)

INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION

WARNING: If the inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation of the facts, including the ownership of all the claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

TITLE OF INVENTION

ARTICLE JOINING CONTROL METHOD

SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION

the specification of which: (complete (a), (b) or (c))

(a) is attached hereto.
(b) was filed on _____ as
 Serial No. 08/_____
 Express Mail No. _____ (if Serial No. not yet known)
and was amended on _____ (if applicable)
(c) was described and claimed in PCT International Application No.
 filed on _____ and as amended under PCT Article 19 on
 (if any).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56 and which is material to the examination of this application, namely, information where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent.

In compliance with this duty there is attached an information disclosure statement.

PRIORITY CLAIM (35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d))

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

(complete (d) or (e))

(d) no such applications have been filed.

(e) such applications have been filed as follows

NOTE: Where item (c) is entered above and the International Application which designated the U.S. claimed priority check item (e), enter the details below and make the priority claim.

EARLIEST FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION AND ANY
PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d)

| COUNTRY | APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING (day, month, year) | PRIORITY CLAIM UNDER 37 USC 119 |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Japan | 2001-026193 | 2, 2, 2001 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S)
(35 U.S.C. § 119(e))

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER

FILING DATE

/

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1] page 2 of 4)

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (List name and registration number)

| | | | |
|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| E.J. Biskup | 18,987 | E.T. Jones | 40,037 |
| R.C. Collins | 27,430 | J.F. Learman | 17,069 |
| P.J. Ethington | 17,299 | J.K. McCulloch | 17,451 |
| J.C. Evans | 20,124 | J.P. Moran | 20,941 |
| R.L. Farris | 25,122 | S.L. Permut | 28,388 |
| W.H. Francis | 25,335 | M.J. Schmidt | 43,904 |
| F.J. Fodale | 20,824 | W.J. Schramm | 24,795 |
| W.H. Griffith | 16,706 | R.L. Stearns | 36,937 |
| A.M. Grove | 39,697 | J.D. Stevens | 35,691 |
| R.W. Hoffman | 337114 | W.J. Waugaman | 20,304 |
| | | C.R. White | 20,494 |

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:
(NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)

William H. Griffith
Reising, Ethington, Barnes,
Kisselle, Learman & McCulloch, P.C.
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

SIGNATURE (S)

Full name of sole or first inventor Akira Shiohara

Inventor's signature Akira Shiohara

Date January 10, 2002 Country of Citizenship Japan
c/o DAIFUKU CO., LTD, Shiga Plant, 1225, Nakazaiji,
Residence Hino-cho, Gamo-gun, Shiga 529-1692 Japan

Post Office Address Same as residence

Full name of second joint inventor, if any _____

Inventor's signature _____

Date _____ Country of Citizenship _____

Residence _____

Post Office Address _____

CHECK PROPER BOX (ES) FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ADDED
PAGE(S) WHICH FORM A PART OF THIS DECLARATION

Signature for third and subsequent joint inventors. Number
pages added ____.

Signature by administrator(trix), executor(trix) or legal
representative for deceased or incapacitated inventor. Number
of pages added ____

Signature for inventor who refuses to sign or cannot be reached
by person authorized under 37 CFR 1.47. Number of pages
added ____

* * *

Added pages to combined declaration and power of attorney for
divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part (CIP)
application.

____ Number of pages added ____

* * *

Authorization of attorney(s) to accept and follow instructions
from representative.

* * *

If no further pages form a part of this Declaration then end this
Declaration with this page and check the following item.

This declaration ends with this page.

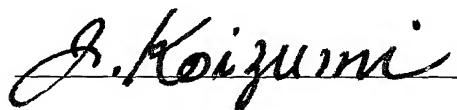
DESIGNATION OF DOMESTIC REPRESENTATIVE

Regarding the Assignment from Akira Shiohara (Assignor) to Daifuku Co., Ltd. (Assignee) of the entire right, title and interest in and to all improvements in the Patent Application for ARTICLE JOINING CONTROL METHOD

executed on January 10, 2002, the said Assignee hereby designates William H. Griffith, whose postal address is P.O. Box 4390, Troy, Michigan 48099, Assignee's representative upon whom notice or process in proceedings affecting said Patent Application may be served.

DAIFUKU CO., LTD.

By:



Its: Junichi Koizumi, President

Dated: January 10, 2002